

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1-3, 7 and 11-13 are amended. Claims 1 and 11 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 2-9 and 12-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter in this application. In response, each of claims 1 and 11 is amended herein to incorporate allowable subject matter from claims 2 and 12, respectively. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance.

Claim for Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged the Applicants' claim for foreign priority based on Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-197455.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the reference supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 24, 2003 and October 18, 2004, and for providing Applicants with an initialed copies of the PTO-1449 forms filed therewith.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 10, 11, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sato et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Complete discussions of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

Amendments to Independent Claims 1 and 11

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a tricycle with a rocking mechanism, including *inter alia*

said left and right suspension arms are connected to each other by resilient means and connection means, the connection means including a pair of substantially L-shaped bell cranks provided at opposite ends of said resilient means.

In addition, independent claim 11 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a tricycle with a rocking mechanism, including *inter alia*

said left and right suspension arms are connected to each other by a shock absorber and connection means, the connection means including a pair of substantially L-shaped bell cranks provided at the opposite ends of said shock absorber.

By contrast, as can be seen in Sato et al. FIGS. 3-6 and 9-12, this document merely discloses a pair of dampers 71, 72 separately connected to one end of L shaped arms 53, 54 respectively, and thus cannot suggest connection means having a pair of substantially L-

shaped bell cranks provided at the opposite ends of said resilient means/shock absorber, as set forth in independent claims 1 and 11, respectively.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 11 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Sato et al.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 2, 3, 7, 12, and 13 are amended to place them in better form.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Application No. 10/606,363
Amendment dated _____
Reply to Office Action of May 23, 2005

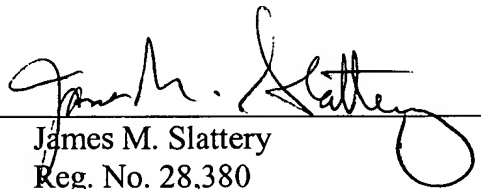
Docket No. 0505-1204P
Art Unit: 3616
Page 11 of 11

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
James M. Slattery
Reg. No. 28,380

P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

JMS:CTT:pay:slb

